

**DECLARATION OF KOHNO HIDETO IN SUPPORT OF THE DILIGENT
REDUCTION TO PRACTICE OF THE INVENTION CLAIMED
IN U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/912,441**

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I, Kohno Hideto, hereby declare that:

On January 27, 2000, my client received an application form for the patent application from the inventor.

On February 1, 2000, my client's intellectual property department initiated a search for prior art relating to the subject matter of the invention. A copy of the initial page of this search is included as Exhibit 1 to this declaration, accompanied by an English translation.

On March 14, 2000, having completed the prior art search, my client ordered a Japanese patent application from Kohno Patent Office, where I am employed as an attorney. I began reviewing the claims, as well as attending to additional matters, such as the drawings. A copy of the order from my client, accompanied by an English translation, is included as Exhibit 2 to this declaration.

On May 24, 2000, I met with the inventor and my client's intellectual property department, which had just completed the review of the application information provided by my client. At this meeting the application was discussed.

I diligently attended to the drafting of the application until June 15, 2000, when I provided my client's intellectual property department with a draft of the application. The inventor began to review the draft.

On July 24, 2000, my client's intellectual property department prepared and submitted the application.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signed this 7 day of August, 2004.

河野 英仁

Signature

Kohno Hideto